

Re: Student concerns and DC shutdown?

Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>

Mon 3/23/2020 11:43 AM

To: Kelly, Lynne J. <ljkelly@Howard.edu>; Sobrian, Sonya K. <ssobrian@Howard.edu>; Morris, Vernon R. <vmorris@Howard.edu>; Tharakan, John P. <jtharakan@Howard.edu>; Carmichael, Jacqueline L <jacqueline.carmich@Howard.edu>; Middendorf III, George A. <gmiddendorf@Howard.edu>; O'Neil, Jahn N. <jahn.oneil@Howard.edu>; Smith, Sonya T. <ssmith@Howard.edu>; Tibbits, Mercedes V. <mtibbits@howard.edu>; Johnson, Krista M <KMJohnson@Howard.edu>; Kumar, Krishna <kkumar@Howard.edu>; Paschall, Samuel <spaschall@Howard.edu>; Kavoossi, Masoud <mkavoossi@Howard.edu>; Robinson, Courtney J <courtney.robinson@Howard.edu>; King, Eleanor M. <emking@Howard.edu>; Johnson, Shameka N <shameka.n.johnson@Howard.edu>; Ramberan, Jami E <jami.ramberan@Howard.edu>; Farquharson, Andre' A. <afarquharson@Howard.edu>; Lawrence, Leslie M. <lmLawrence@Howard.edu>; Hopson, Ronald <rhopson@Howard.edu>

Cc: Franklin, Michael J <michael.franklin@bison.howard.edu>; McClung, Monique Y <monique.mcclung@Howard.edu>; Howell, Rachel V <rachel.howell@bison.howard.edu>; Burke, Kylie E <kylie.burke@bison.howard.edu>; Taylor Ellison <ellisonmtaylor@gmail.com>

 1 attachments (118 KB)

COVID-19 Academic Response [HUSA Proposal] (1) (1).pdf;

Good morning colleagues,

A few things:

1. Just following up on the email below. Please see the attached letter the students sent to Dr. Wutoh. They've asked us to consider supporting it. Please let me know what you all think asap, I'd like to respond by sometime tomorrow? The big new issue is an optional pass/fail for classes.
2. Some of our colleagues are starting to have zoom network demand problems. Please ask your colleagues for feedback on how things are going? A follow on to this issue is how to deal with student connectivity issues. The administration asked about their connectivity in a recent survey. Around 2500 students responded. Some have recommended a task force to make recommendations to the senate for how to deal with these and other issues.
3. Some students have been moved from the dorms to "other housing options." Including some international students. I'll ask the administration for a statement and update. The council may want to consider recommendations from our committees on follow up to minimize students that might slip through the cracks.
4. AAUP guidelines have recommended compensation for faculty for the enormous amount of work taken to move classes online from scratch. Would the council like to make a recommendation on this to the administration and board?
5. There's been a suggestion to postpone graduation and not cancel. Please consider and let me know your recommendations?
6. There's also been a suggestion from colleagues to have the senate endorse closing of on campus research labs to students. The primary reason for the suggestion was to ensure the safety of graduate students that might be pushed to work in the labs when they are not comfortable doing so. Again, please consider and let me know your recommendations?

Sorry for the long list. Please let me know your leanings/decision on (1) today if possible? The others by Thursday/Friday? I'll ask the committees for feedback and recommendations by Wednesday.

I'll try to give you all an update tomorrow or Wednesday.

Thanks,

Marcus

Marcus Alfred
Associate Professor
Howard University
Dept. of Physics & Astronomy
Washington, DC 20059
202-806-6258
maralfred@howard.edu

From: Alfred, Marcus

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 5:23 PM

To: Kelly, Lynne J. <ljkelly@Howard.edu>; Sobrian, Sonya K. <ssobrian@Howard.edu>; Morris, Vernon R. <vmorris@Howard.edu>; Tharakan, John P. <jtharakan@Howard.edu>; Carmichael, Jacqueline L <jacqueline.carmich@Howard.edu>; Middendorf III, George A. <gmiddendorf@Howard.edu>; O'Neil, Jahn N. <jahn.oneil@Howard.edu>; Smith, Sonya T. <ssmith@Howard.edu>; Tibbits, Mercedes V. <mtibbits@howard.edu>; Johnson, Krista M <KMJohnson@Howard.edu>; Kumar, Krishna <kkumar@Howard.edu>; Paschall, Samuel <spaschall@Howard.edu>; Kavoossi, Masoud <mkavoossi@Howard.edu>; Robinson, Courtney J <courtney.robinson@Howard.edu>; King, Eleanor M. <emking@Howard.edu>; Johnson, Shameka N <shameka.n.johnson@Howard.edu>; Ramberan, Jami E <jami.ramberan@Howard.edu>; Farquharson, Andre' A. <afarquharson@Howard.edu>; Lawrence, Leslie M. <lmlawrence@Howard.edu>; Hopson, Ronald <rhopson@Howard.edu>; jeanbaileyphd@aol.com <jeanbaileyphd@aol.com>; Jackson, James T. <jt_jackson@Howard.edu>; Grant, Bradford C. <bcgrant@Howard.edu>; Arhin, Stephen A. <saarhin@Howard.edu>; christi cunningham <christicunningham@gmail.com>; Alayan, Kristina J <kristina.alayan@law.howard.edu>; Davila-Garcia, Martha I. <mdavila-garcia@Howard.edu>; Littleton, George <glittleton@Howard.edu>; Castor, Chimene <chimene.castor@Howard.edu>; Okunji, Priscilla O. <priscilla.okunji@Howard.edu>; Akala, Emmanuel O <eakala@Howard.edu>; Drame, Imbi L <imbi.drame@Howard.edu>; Edwards, Janice B. <janice.edwards@Howard.edu>; Liu, Meirong <meirong.liu@Howard.edu>; McSwain, Alexander T <amcswain@Howard.edu>

Cc: Franklin, Michael J <michael.franklin@bison.howard.edu>; McClung, Monique Y <monique.mcclung@Howard.edu>; Howell, Rachel V <rachel.howell@bison.howard.edu>; Burke, Kylie E <kylie.burke@bison.howard.edu>; Taylor Ellison <ellisonmtaylor@gmail.com>

Subject: Student concerns and DC shutdown?

Colleagues,

We've spoken to current and incoming HUSA leadership and they've shared a few concerns:

- (1) Online class times. Since students are now scattered around the country and globe, an 8am zoom class might be 5am in a different time zone.
- (2) Since some students were told "not to come back" only after they left for spring break, these students left books and other supplies in their dorms. A near-term unexpected trip to DC to pick up items might be impossible for some and repurchasing textbooks might be a financial hardship.
- (3) Some students are reporting that they are being told by some in the administration that DC will have a "shutdown" similar to what's happened in San Francisco and New Jersey within the next few days.

I've asked Dr. Wutoh regarding (3). Please see his response attached. Also, it might make sense to urge our colleagues to be mindful of (1) and (2). Suggestions or recommendations?

Best,

Marcus

Marcus Alfred
Associate Professor
Howard University
Dept. of Physics & Astronomy
Washington, DC 20059
202-806-6258
maralfred@howard.edu